



## Archdiocese of Seattle Signs the Healthy Planet, Healthy People Petition Catholic Petition Calls for UN Leaders to Care for our Common Home and the Poorest

SEATTLE, September 23, 2021 – The Archdiocese of Seattle signed the [Healthy Planet, Healthy People Petition](#), which calls political leaders to set meaningful targets to protect creation and affirm the Paris Agreement at the upcoming UN Biodiversity Conference (COP15) and UN Climate Change Conference (COP26).

“We have signed this petition because our planet is in peril, facing an unprecedented ecological crisis,” said Archbishop Paul D. Etienne. “Scientists from around the globe share alarming trend data on the desertification of our forests, increasing temperatures, the acidification of our oceans and more. The issues caused by our reckless consumerism, irresponsibility and indifference not only harm the delicate balance of our natural ecosystem but harm our poorest brothers and sisters. We must remember this is our common home and we are *all* responsible for its care.”

In response to Pope Francis’ 2015 encyclical [Laudato Si’](#), which called on all people to respond to the “cry of the earth and the cry of the poor,” Christians around the world celebrate the Season of Creation from September 1 through October 4, the feast of St. Francis of Assisi. It is an annual time for prayer, reflection and action on behalf of creation.

“Pope Francis asks all of us to consider our own lifestyles and embrace a simpler way of living that respects our finite resources and our environment,” said Archbishop Etienne. “I echo this call. While it is clear that large-scale changes are needed, we cannot ignore the power and influence of our own individual action and decisions. By living out our Catholic faith, little by little, we can make a difference and sow seeds of hope for the restoration of our common home.”

He added, “During this Season of Creation, I invite everyone to reflect on the gloriousness of our planet and pray that we better care for this beautiful gift from God.” Archbishop Etienne said he encourages Catholics to sign the [Healthy Planet, Healthy People Petition](#) and get involved with action groups like the [Laudato Si’ Movement](#) or the [Catholic Climate Covenant](#).

### About the Archdiocese of Seattle

The Archdiocese of Seattle encompasses all of Western Washington, stretching from Canada to Oregon and from the Cascade Mountains to the Pacific Ocean. There are 72 Catholic schools, 174 parishes, missions and pastoral centers in the archdiocese, with more than 500 weekly Masses celebrated in eight languages. Archbishop Paul D. Etienne leads the archdiocese with his auxiliary bishop, Bishop Eusebio Elizondo. For more information about the Archdiocese of Seattle, visit [seattlearchdiocese.org](http://seattlearchdiocese.org).

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